

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 871

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Johnny Bates of Waynesboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Johnny Bates; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bates was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as a dentist, in which position he earned the respect and admiration of his peers and patients alike; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bates embarked upon his long career as a dentist following his graduation from the University of Tennessee School of Dentistry in Memphis. In 1960, he acquired the practice of the late Dr. Billings and, on August 24, 1971, he opened the newly-built Bates Dental Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnny Bates ran the Bates Dental Clinic until his retirement in 2010; and

WHEREAS, a valued member of a number of professional organizations, Dr. Bates was a member of the Sixth District Dental Society, the Tennessee Dental Association, and the National Dental Association and lent his expertise to several committees dedicated to recruiting notable doctors to establish practices in Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bates gave generously of his time and energy to a number of civic organizations and endeavors, including serving as the chairman of the Wayne County Cancer Society and the Bank of Waynesboro Board of Directors, sitting on the boards of directors of the Wayne County Hospital and the Nursing Home, and participating as a member of the Wayne County Skills Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, one of the original stock holders of the Green River County Club Golf Course, Dr. Bates contributed his time and money to the club, and he also assisted in reorganizing the Cub Scout troop in Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Johnny Bates was chosen as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation and received the Fifty Year Service Award from the American Dental Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bates was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church in Waynesboro, which he served faithfully for many years. He will be fondly remembered by church members as a very fine fish cook; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnny Bates was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Marie, and was the proud father of Joey and Lisa; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bates leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Johnny Bates, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Bates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.